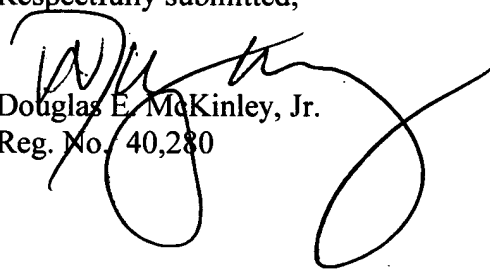


Appl. No. 09/177,902
Amdt. dated January 4, 2005
Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of December 17, 2004

Remarks/Arguments

Per 37 CFR 1.121(h), only the claims have been resubmitted. Accordingly, it is the applicant's understanding that the applicant's explanation of the amendments intended to overcome the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-17 filed November 12, 2004 is still before the Examiner. Accordingly, applicant has made an earnest attempt to place the above referenced application in condition for allowance and action toward that end is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further observations or comments, he is invited to contact the undersigned for resolution.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas E. McKinley, Jr.
Reg. No. 40,280

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The undersigned hereby certifies that the forgoing Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of December 17, 2004 and a return postcard are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date set forth below.



Douglas E. McKinley, Jr.

JAN 4, 2005
Date